

System design effort will produce a more cohesive plan for higher education growth

Work is underway on a plan that could become the blueprint for investments in higher education over the next 20 years.

Proposing when, where and how to spend higher education dollars in the most coordinated and cost-effective way is the task a study group led by the HECB and comprised of representatives from the major elements of the higher-education system.

The System Design Plan – the most comprehensive review of the higher education delivery system in Washington in nearly 30 years – will provide a framework for investing in new campuses and higher education centers, and for making the most effective use of technology to educate students.

The design-plan effort will utilize a coordinated rather than ad hoc approach to the decision making necessary to achieve the state's long-term strategic goals in higher education. Those goals include expanding degree production and educational opportunities for an increasingly diverse population.

The plan group's draft recommendations are due to the HECB in October, with final recommendations approved by the Board the following month. [Read more.](#)

UW, EWU report on eLearning initiatives

A panel of experts from the University of Washington and Eastern Washington University briefed the HECB on initiatives the universities are undertaking to make better use of technology in administration, student learning, and strategic planning.

Technology will play an important role in achieving the state's long-term goals to expand degree attainment and make college more accessible.

Investments in higher education technology will be among the issues discussed in the system design effort now under way. Legislators also are interested in ways technology can be used to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and quality of education through technology. A technology bill supported by the HECB, [2SHB 1946](#), is pending in the Legislature.

Panel presenters:

- Tom Lewis, Director of Online Technologies, Learning & Scholarly Technologies, UW. [See presentation.](#)
- Todd B. Mildon, University Registrar, Director of Student Academic Data Management, UW. [See presentation.](#)
- Gary L. Pratt, Chief Information Officer, EWU. [See presentation.](#)
- Karen Dowdall-Sandford, Director of Online Programs and Distance Education in UW Educational Outreach. [See presentation.](#)

WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

2008-09 Tuition and Fee Rates: A National Comparison



The 40th edition of the annual HECB publication [Tuition and Fee Rates: A National Comparison](#), was approved by the Board at its March meeting. The report is a data compendium of tuition and required fee data for the most current five academic years (ending with 2008-09). It is widely referenced in higher education. [Read more.](#)

Skilled and Educated Workforce Report Page 2

House and Senate release 2009-11 budgets for higher education

[How the two versions
compare](#)

[Details of budget
proposals](#)

Executive Director's Report

Ann Daley, HECB executive director, is making a series of public presentations on the new [System Design Plan](#) and the implementation process for the Strategic Master Plan.

Daley spoke March 4 to the Vancouver Rotary, emphasizing the many direct benefits the state receives when its citizens have higher levels of education. She also discussed the challenges presented to higher education by the current economic crisis.

In the weeks ahead, Daley will make similar presentations at service clubs in Yakima, Vancouver and Ellensburg and at the board meeting of the Independent Colleges of Washington at Saint Martin's University in Lacey.

Daley also noted that HB 1545, which would have given the HECB authority to offer a higher education retirement plan to board employees in lieu of the state's Public Employee Retirement System, did not make it out of the House Ways & Means Committee this session. Daley said the agency would continue the effort to win legislative support for the bill.

Skilled and Educated Workforce report forecasts need for more degrees, certificates

A semi-annual report by the HECB, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, and the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board was discussed at the March Board meeting.

The report notes:

- The state will meet only 67 percent of its need for workers with graduate degrees between 2011 and 2016; 88 percent of its need for workers with bachelor's degrees; and 87 percent of its need for workers with mid-level degrees.
- Demand for degrees or certificates in high-demand fields such as science technology, engineering, computer science, and health occupations and professions will significantly outstrip supply.
- Degree production has steadily increased at all levels in the health occupations and professions, with slight growth in engineering, computer science and information technology.
- There may be reason to expect additional growth in degree production in these fields due to an increase in the number of students selecting them as majors. [Read more.](#)

HECB streamlines program approval process

Institutions will now have the option of submitting a less-complicated and time-consuming proposal to the HECB when they seek approval for certain changes to degree programs.

At its March meeting, the HECB adopted a resolution authorizing "moderate degree-change proposals" in lieu of full proposals when the changes would not substantially alter the degree program. [Read more.](#)

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No April Board Meeting

**Mark Your Calendar
Next Board/Advisory
Council meeting**

**9 am - 5 p.m.
Tuesday, May 12**

**State Investment Board
2100 Evergreen Park Dr SW,
Olympia**

**Check back after May 5
for agenda items at:
[www.hecb.wa.gov/boardmtgs/index.
asp](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/boardmtgs/index.asp)**

On the preliminary agenda:

- System Design Plan update
- Legislative session in review